

MINUTES

Farmland Protection Program Durham Soil and Water Conservation District 721 Foster Street Durham, NC 27701

Meeting Number: 10 (Farmland Advisory Board) Date: September 18, 2008

Advisory Board Present:

Neil Frank, at Large
Douglas Daye, Flat River VAD
Bo Glenn, Open Space Representative
Billy Cooley, Farm Bureau Representative
Gus Gray, Cape Fear VAD
Allen Powell, At Large

Others Present:

Lisa Marochak, Soil & Water
Jennifer Brooks, Soil & Water
Lynwood Faison, Soil & Water
Michelle Wallace, Durham County Cooperative
Extension
Karen McAdams, Durham County
Livestock/Crops Agent
Jane Korest, Open Space Manager
Wendy Seddon, Open Space
Richard Morgart, Tax Administration
Gerry Cohn, Consultant with American
Farmland Trust

1. **Welcome** –Chairman Neil Frank called the Farmland Protection Advisory Board Meeting to order at 8:03AM.
2. **Minutes** – Minutes were read by Gus Gray-Cape Fear VAD. Chairman Neil Frank reported that there is an error under the Easement Update section. The last sentence that reads Terry Francis should read Francis Terry. Cape Fear VAD Gus Gray made a motion to approve the minutes with a minor correction on page 3 that needs to be made. Open Space Representative Bo Glenn seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
3. **Durham County Agricultural Agent** – Durham County Livestock/Crops Agent Karen McAdams told the Farmland Board a little background about herself and what she does as the Livestock/Crops Agent for Durham County. McAdams reported that she is located in Orange County but she is still the agent for Durham and Orange County. McAdams gave the board an update on livestock in the County. McAdams gave the board her predictions on future implications.
4. **Countywide Farmland Plan**- Gerry Cohn a Consultant with American Farmland Trust gave the board a general overview of what he does and told the board that he would like to be considered as the Consultant for the Farmland Plan. Cohn reported that he has assisted on several other plans across the state and he also sits on the NCDA & CS Farmland Preservation Board. The Farmland Board asked several questions to Mr. Cohn before the Chairman asked everyone that was not a board member to excuse themselves from the meeting. During closed doors the board discussed having Mr. Cohen on as the Consultant for the Countywide Farmland Protection Plan for Durham County. A recommendation was made by Open Space Representative Bo Glenn to recommend to the Durham County Soil & Water Staff to hire Gerry Cohn on as the Consultant for the Countywide Farmland Protection Plan for Durham County. At Large Allen Powell seconded the motion. Motion passed without dissent.
5. **VAD Update** – Administrative Officer Lisa Marochak reported that there are no VAD's to report since the last meeting. Marochak reported that she sent in a request for the County to mail a check to Southern High School for their help in building the VAD sign post.

6. **Easement Update** – Jane Korest Open Space Manager reported that last month Wendy Seddon from Open Space gave a detailed update on the McFarland Farm. Since the last meeting Korest reported that their Attorney has been busy working over the past month with 4 different individuals that has land that overlaps with Mr. McFarland's Farm. Korest reported that three of the individuals have indicated over the past month their willingness to sign Quick Claim Deeds so they should be resolved over the next week or so. Korest reported that after the Quick Claim Deeds are signed they can revise the survey to reference those that will allow them to get the appraisal to reflect the correct acreage. Korest reported that the fourth individual has such a small amount that if they do not hear back from them by the end of the week they will exclude that from the easement. Korest reported that the Tilley Grant Agreement for the State for \$398,000 will go to the Board of County Commissioner Monday 22nd to be approved. Korest reported that this will be a kind of complicated Easement because they are blending State and Federal funds.

7. **Other Business**

A. **Annual Report-** Chairman Neil Frank reported that Eddie Culberson, Jane Korest and he went to the County Commissioner Worksession on September 2 and presented the Annual Report. Frank reported that the County Commissioners had a lot of good things to say about the Farmland Protection Board.

B. **Seminar** – Open Space Representative Bo Glenn reported that the subcommittee met in July to discuss the possibility of having a seminar the end of January or the first of February. The seminar would be on a Saturday from 9am- 2pm possibly at the Bahama Ruritan Club. Glenn went over the 9 proposed topics that the subcommittee came up with. Glenn reported that he will get with Marochak to set up a date for another subcommittee meeting before the next Farmland Board Meeting.

C. **Ranking System Definitions** – Open Space Manager Jane Korest passed out a copy of the Ranking System definitions that Durham Soil & Water Representative Kathryn Spann came up with for everyone to look over before the next meeting.

8. **Set Next Meeting Date** – The board set the next meeting date for Thursday, October 16th at 8:00am

10. **Adjourn** – With no further discussion or business, Chairman Neil Frank adjourned the meeting at 9:43 AM.

Neil Frank

Chairman

Talmage Layton

Vice Chairman